



May 9, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Committee Labor & Housing. I am Jason J. Shedlock and I am the President of the Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council as well as a Regional Organizer and Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 327 the Laborers' International Union, Local 327, based right here in Augusta. I am also the President of the Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council. My roles also include serving as Vice Chair of the Maine Apprenticeship Council, a member of the State Workforce Board, and various leadership roles within Maine's labor movement. I am here to testify in support of LD 1818, "An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects."

In my roles working on behalf of working families, I am privileged to represent 350 Laborers' and over 6,000 Maine residents in the construction industry. We know that Maine has an opportunity to be a national leader in offshore wind generation. We have been told by experts at the University of Maine and others that while Maine was once miles ahead of other states in making this industry a reality, this is no longer the case. Governor Mills' climate plan's tagline is "Maine Won't Wait." We should also know that neighboring states won't wait for Maine either. The takeaway here is simple: we must not only "not wait," we must act. Now. And acting means putting in place what is needed to succeed. A port is necessary to stand up and grow this industry. LD 1818 provides the framework to begin this process.

And we also know that building our offshore wind infrastructure is a decades-long process that is complicated and full of yet-unknown variables. But we do know some facts. We know what others have done to build their industries, how they've done it and with whom. We know what the federal government will invest in and why. We know what Maine's own experts have said. We know and are constantly learning more about what the community needs as well as what's best for the environment during the process.

But while Maine's motto of Dirigo drives us to lead, we also know that a road trip without a map is nothing more than a joyride; and most always leads to wasted time, money, patience and will. And gas. That's why LD 181 is so important. On a road that we know is long and will be filled with unseen hazards and detours, LD 1818 ensures that the caravan of people necessary to make this long trip are driving the right cars, have the right people behind the wheel who have driven this way before, and the right co-pilots alongside them reading the right map.

Through labor agreements, we remove the uncertainty of how the work is going to be completed and by whom. And to be objectively clear - the "whom" is any and all who wish to participate and play by the rules. Setting the expectations and benchmarks around construction as well as operations and maintenance means one less aspect is left to chance. The size and scope of this project demands for the certainty of labor, operations and maintenance. We can't pretend it doesn't or have the arrogance or naivete to somehow think we are going to find a better way and hope for the best. Labor agreements are the only way this is possible. They are the only way other jurisdictions have completed these types of massive undertakings. They are the only thing the federal government will fund.

Maine construction industry as we currently know it will need to expand. We'll need to build upon current knowledge and expertise and provide opportunities for any and all who would like a good middle class career to join us to build this industry. We have the training to do it. We have the capacity. We have the experience. In essence, we have the map and the gas (or electricity for my sisters and brothers in the IBEW). What LD 1818 does is allow us to pull out of the driveway and set off towards our destination.

I am happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have.

Jason J. Shedlock

President, Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council

Regional Organizer, Laborers New England Region Organizing Fund

Vice President & Secretary-Treasurer of Local 327 of the Laborer's International Union

jshedlock@LNEROF.org

(207) 317-1447

Resident: Portland, Maine

Black Rock Wind (West Virginia):

*A Joint Venture Between **Reed & Reed, Inc.** & Bechtel*

Developer: Clearway

Partner: West Virginia State Building & Construction Trades Council

"The Bechtel-Reed & Reed team will engineer, procure, and construct the farm. The project will include twenty-three Siemens-Gamesa SG 5.0-145 wind turbines on 107.5-meter tall towers, producing 115 MW of electricity at the point interconnection to the First Energy electrical grid."¹

"Our partnership with Bechtel combines two leading companies in the new world economy of renewable energy. All of us at Reed & Reed are pleased to begin work on this project with our partners from Bechtel. It's a chance to demonstrate our expertise and experience in wind projects in a new region. We are especially pleased to have been selected by Clearway to build such an important project," said Jackson Parker, CEO of Reed & Reed, Inc.²

*"Black Rock created **more than 200 union jobs** during construction and nearly a dozen jobs in ongoing operations. "Our members not only appreciated the good jobs building this wind project, they are proud to be involved with this cutting edge technology as well," said Steve White, ACT Director, WV State Building Trades.³*

¹ <https://www.bechtel.com/newsroom/releases/2021/01/increasing-wind-power-by-15-percent/>

² <https://reed-reed.com/black-rock-wind-west-virginia/>

³ <https://www.clearwayenergygroup.com/press-releases/clearway-cuts-ribbon-at-black-rock-wind-farm-west-virginias-newest-power-plant/>

Black Rock Wind – West Virginia

[Home](#) / [News](#) / Black Rock Wind – West Virginia



NEW WIND FARM TO INCREASE WEST VIRGINIA'S WIND POWER BY NEARLY 15% Bechtel and Reed & Reed joint venture selected to deliver new Black Rock Wind Farm

RESTON, Virginia, January 2021 — Clean, renewable energy for West Virginia residents surged forward today when Clearway Energy Group selected the Bechtel-Reed & Reed Joint Venture, to build its Black Rock wind farm in Grant County and Mineral counties. The new wind farm represents a nearly 15% increase in the state's wind power and will produce enough green energy to power 34,000 homes.

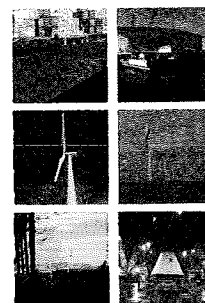
"We're excited to partner with Bechtel and Reed & Reed and look forward to potential that their combined resources can bring to this critical project," said Chris Fox, Vice President of Construction at Clearway Energy Group. "This represents Clearway's second renewable project in West Virginia, and provides a great opportunity for us to add construction jobs and permanent positions to our existing workforce in the state. Black Rock represents an important and growing sector of West Virginia's economy and we are proud to help drive that growth."



Recent News

- > [Mattawamkeag Bridge Replacement – Mattawamkeag, ME](#)
September 28, 2022
- > [Hinsdale / Brattleboro Bridge Project](#)
September 28, 2022
- > [Woolwich Station 46 Route 1 Bridge](#)
September 27, 2022
- > [Madawaska International Bridge Replacement](#)
September 23, 2022

Browse Projects



The Bechtel-Reed & Reed team, will engineer, procure, and construct the farm. The project will include twenty-three Siemens-Gamesa SG 5.0-145 wind turbines on 107.5-meter tall towers, producing 115 MW of electricity at the point interconnection to the First Energy electrical grid.

“The Black Rock Wind Farm is a significant contribution to renewable wind production in the region, and we are delighted to have Reed & Reed as partners and we are eager to join Clearway Energy Group on their path to deliver clean energy for future generations,” said Kelvin Sims, Bechtel's Infrastructure general manager, Americas. “Our customers are setting ambitious targets to decarbonize energy systems, and we’re excited to support them in their journey to net-zero.”

“Our partnership with Bechtel combines two leading companies in the new world economy of renewable energy. All of us at Reed & Reed are pleased to begin work on this project with our partners from Bechtel. It's a chance to demonstrate our expertise and experience in wind projects in a new region. We are especially pleased to have been selected by Clearway to build such an important project,” said Jackson Parker, CEO of Reed & Reed, Inc.

The project will create around 200 jobs in the area during construction, with several permanent jobs when operational. Once the wind farm is active, currently scheduled for late 2021, it will save 298,500 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

About Bechtel:

Bechtel is a trusted engineering, construction and project management partner to industry and government. Differentiated by the quality of our people and our relentless drive to deliver the most successful outcomes, we align our capabilities to our customers' objectives to create a lasting positive impact. Since 1898, we have helped customers complete more than 25,000 projects in 160 countries on all seven continents that have created jobs, grown economies, improved the resiliency of the world's infrastructure, increased access to energy, resources, and vital services, and made the world a safer, cleaner place.

Bechtel serves the Infrastructure; Nuclear, Security & Environmental; Oil, Gas & Chemicals; and Mining & Metals markets. Our services span from initial planning and investment, through start-up and operations.

www.bechtel.com

About Reed & Reed:

Founded in 1928 by Captain Josiah W. Reed and his son Carlton Day Reed, Reed & Reed has a long history of successful public & private construction projects throughout New England. Headquartered in Woolwich, Maine, Reed & Reed performs a wide range of construction services for both public and private clients. From complex cable-stayed bridges to industrial facilities, marine terminals to wind farms, commercial and institutional buildings to pile driving, parking garages to environmental remediation, Reed & Reed has a track record of superior performance. www.reed-reed.com

By Robin Wood | May 18th, 2021

© 2021 Reed & Reed, Inc.

Contact Us

Reed & Reed, Inc.
P.O. Box 370
Woolwich, ME 04579

Telephone: 207 443-9747
Fax: 207 443-2792

Recent News

- > Mattawamkeag Bridge Replacement – Mattawamkeag, ME
- > Hinsdale / Brattleboro Bridge Project
- > Woolwich Station 46 Route 1 Bridge

May 6, 2022

Clearway Cuts Ribbon at Black Rock Wind Farm, West Virginia's Newest Power Plant

Clearway's third West Virginia wind farm boosts state's wind power by 15%, representing a \$20 million tax benefit for state and Grant and Mineral counties

SAN FRANCISCO – Clearway Energy Group ("Clearway") hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the commencement of commercial operations for the newly-constructed Black Rock, a 115 megawatt (MW) wind farm that spans West Virginia's Grant and Mineral counties. Black Rock is contracted under long-term power purchase agreements with customers Toyota Motor North America (TMNA) and AEP Energy Partners.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the completion of a wind farm that's creating both power and opportunity," said Craig Cornelius, CEO of Clearway Energy Group. "This wind farm is the newest power plant in West Virginia's long legacy of energy leadership and will play a central role in providing jobs and investments that help communities thrive. We're grateful for the many local partners – including trade unions, elected officials, and members of the community – who helped make it possible. We also extend our thanks to our customers Toyota and AEP Energy Partners, who contracted with Black Rock to provide clean, low-cost power for their local operations."



innovative energy solutions we can put in place to help our customers power their homes and businesses with clean, reliable energy,” said Greg Hall, Executive Vice President, Energy Supply, AEP.

“Black Rock is helping Toyota achieve its goals in carbon neutrality by adding more clean, renewable wind-powered energy to the grid than the electricity used in our operations in West Virginia, as well as helping to improve the local communities by increasing the number green jobs in the state,” commented Kevin Butt, regional environmental sustainability director for Toyota Motor North America.

Black Rock is home to 23 state-of-the-art wind turbines that will generate enough electricity to power 55,000 homes every year. The new wind farm will also increase the state’s wind energy generation by 15 percent.

“Throughout my time in Congress, I have remained a strong supporter of an all-of-the-above energy approach, and it’s important that West Virginia continue to advance its role as a leader in energy production,” Senator Capito said. “Not only will Black Rock Wind Farm help our state achieve this goal and help us continue to diversify our energy portfolio, but it will also create jobs and generate millions in state and local taxes long after the project is operational. I have been supportive of this project, and I am confident it will greatly benefit the residents of Grant and Mineral counties.”

Message from Senator Manchin delivered by Keith McIntosh –

“Today marks a major milestone for West Virginia. Black Rock’s 23 wind turbines are a significant addition to our state’s energy portfolio. Wind power is a clean, practical energy source, that is used nationwide to meet our collective climate goals. I appreciate Clearway Energy Group’s investment in my beloved home state’s economy and workforce.”

Black Rock created more than 200 union jobs during construction and nearly a dozen jobs in ongoing operations. Clearway is one of the largest taxpayers in Grant and Mineral counties, with Black Rock contributing \$12 million in property taxes and \$9 million in Business and Occupancy taxes during the life of the project.

“Black Rock represents a tremendous investment by Clearway in our state,” said Mitch Carmichael, Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development. “With the infusion of three wind farms in the Potomac Highlands area, including Black Rock, the company has made a meaningful impact on the local region.”

Friday’s ceremony began with introductory remarks from Delegate Gary Howell (R-Mineral), followed by the national anthem sung by students from nearby Elk Garden Primary School. Craig Cornelius, CEO of Clearway, then highlighted the development of Black Rock and the benefits that it brings to West Virginia’s diverse energy portfolio.

Cornelius, along with a cadre of state and federally-elected officials and partners from Toyota and AEP, cut the ceremonial ribbon with wind turbines spinning behind them. Clearway then invited guests on a bus tour to see the wind turbines and substations.

their efforts to continue our tradition of energy production.”

“Our members not only appreciated the good jobs building this wind project, they are proud to be involved with this cutting edge technology as well,” said Steve White, ACT Director, WV State Building Trades.

Also in attendance at the event were members of the Clearway Community Benefit Fund Committee. The fund will distribute \$130,000 in grants in 2022 and \$50,000 annually over the life of the project.

Black Rock reached commercial operations in February 2022. Clearway's 550 MW portfolio in the state includes another 120 MW wind farm under development in the same region.

###

About Clearway Energy Group

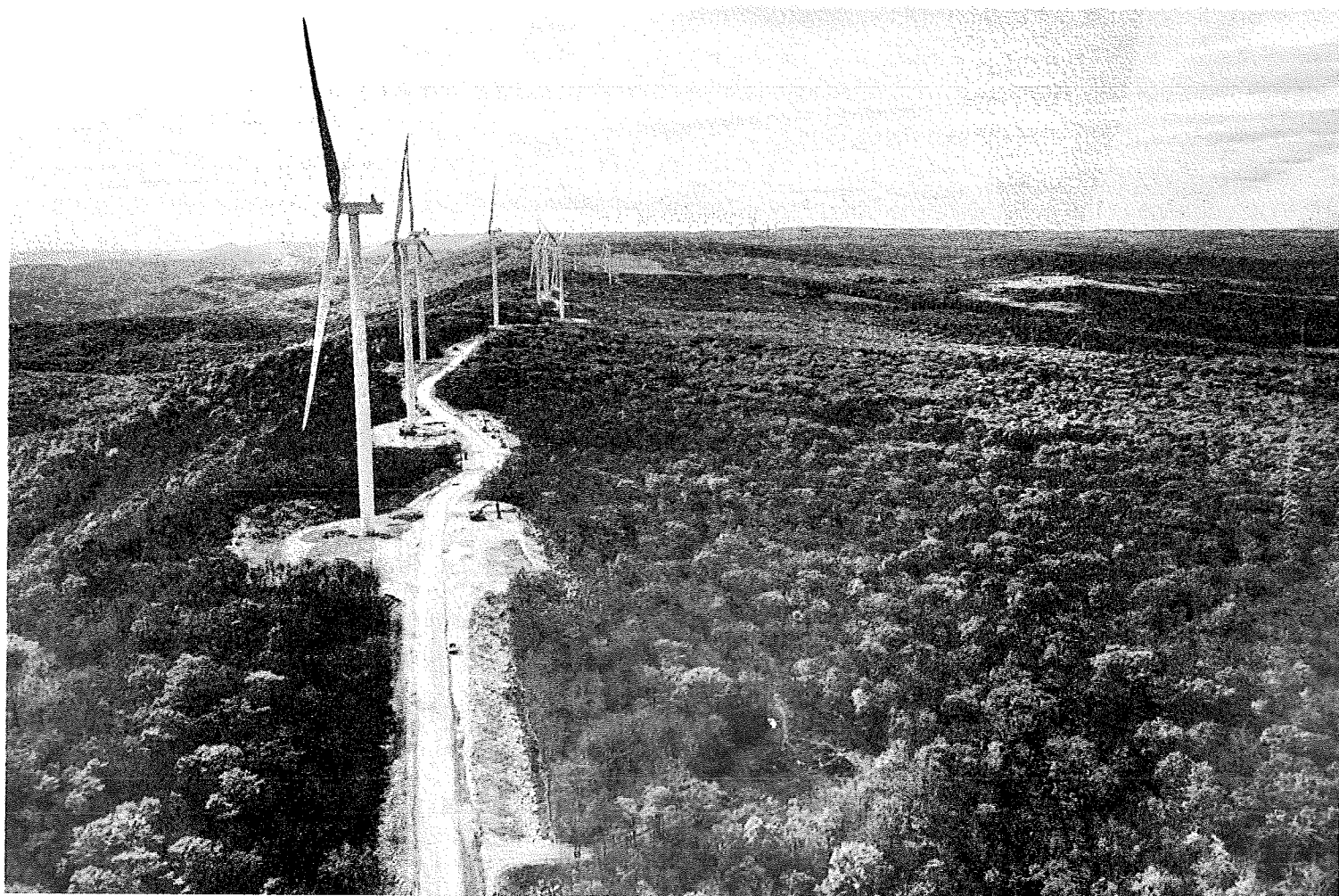
Clearway Energy Group is leading the transition to a world powered by clean energy. Along with our public affiliate Clearway Energy, Inc., we own and operate more than 8 gigawatts of renewable and conventional energy assets across the country. As we develop a nationwide pipeline of new renewable energy projects for the future, Clearway's 5.6 gigawatts of wind, solar, and energy storage assets offset the equivalent of more than 10.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions for our customers today. Clearway Energy Group is headquartered in San Francisco with offices in Carlsbad, Calif.; Scottsdale, Ariz.; Houston; and Princeton, N.J. For more information, visit clearwayenergygroup.com.

Media Contact:

Zadie Oleksiw

Director, Communications

202.836.5754 | Zadie.Oleksiw@clearwayenergy.com



Media Contact:

Zadie Oleksiw

Director, Communications

zadie.oleksiw@clearwayenergy.com

ABOUT CLEARWAY

[What We Do](#)

[Our Vision & Values](#)

[Our Leadership](#)

[Our People](#)

[Our Partners](#)

[Our Public Affiliate](#)

[ESG at Clearway](#)

OUR PROJECTS

[Operating Assets](#)

[Development Projects](#)

[Community Solar & Distributed Solar](#)

[Utility-Scale Wind & Solar](#)

New Wind Farm to Increase West Virginia's Wind Power by Nearly 15%

📅 25 January 2021 📍 RESTON, Va.

Bechtel and Reed & Reed joint venture selected to deliver new Black Rock Wind Farm

Clean, renewable energy for West Virginia residents surged forward today when Clearway Energy Group selected the Bechtel-Reed & Reed Joint Venture, to build its Black Rock wind farm in Grant County and Mineral counties. The new wind farm represents a nearly 15% increase in the state's wind power and will produce enough green energy to power 34,000 homes.

The Bechtel-Reed & Reed team, will engineer, procure, and construct the farm. The project will include twenty-three Siemens-Gamesa SG 5.0-145 wind turbines on 107.5-meter tall towers, producing 115 MW of electricity at the point interconnection to the First Energy electrical grid.

"We're excited to partner with Bechtel and Reed & Reed and look forward to potential that their combined resources can bring to this critical project," said Chris Fox, Vice President of Construction at Clearway Energy Group. "This represents Clearway's second renewable project in West Virginia, and provides a great opportunity for us to add construction jobs and permanent positions to our existing workforce in the state. Black Rock represents an important and growing sector of West Virginia's economy and we are proud to help drive that growth."

"The Black Rock Wind Farm is a significant contribution to renewable wind production in the region, and we are delighted to have Reed & Reed as partners and we are eager to join Clearway Energy Group on their path to deliver clean energy for future generations," said Kelvin Sims, Bechtel's Infrastructure general manager, Americas. "Our customers are setting ambitious targets to decarbonize energy systems, and we're excited to support them in their journey to net-zero."

"Our partnership with Bechtel combines two leading companies in the new world economy of renewable energy. All of us at Reed & Reed are pleased to begin work on this project with our partners from Bechtel. It's a chance to demonstrate our expertise and experience in wind projects in a new region. We are especially pleased to have been selected by Clearway to build such an important project," said Jackson Parker, CEO of Reed & Reed, Inc.

The project will create around 200 jobs in the area during construction, with several permanent jobs when operational. Once the wind farm is active, currently scheduled for late 2021, it will save 298,500 metric tons of CO2 emissions.